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File 257

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COUNTRY ~~Soviet Zone of Germany~~

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC ~~Military Information~~

from Potsdam

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 5 May 1950

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 6

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. a. Sixty troops wearing black-bordered red epaulets marched out of the Generalsviertel on Weinmeisterstrasse on 21 February 1950. One of the soldiers

- b. Garde Ulanen Kaserne on Jaegerallee:

Previously occupied by troops wearing black epaulets with signal insignia. A sentry wearing black-bordered red epaulets was observed for the first time on 9 March 1950. The barracks yard was deserted. Only one window of the barracks was lighted at night. It is believed that only a guard detail is there (1).

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- d. Husaren Kaserne on Stalin Allee:

The barracks has been vacated by the Red Army. A Volkspolizei gate guard was observed on 15 March 1950 (3).

- e. Garde 30 Corps Kaserne:

Soviet soldiers were seen only sporadically on 18 March 1950. It was the impression that the barracks were being vacated by the Soviets. Laborers said that Volkspolizei would move into the barracks (4).

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25X1

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2

f. **Adolf Hitler Kaserne (komendatura):** About 60 officers (ranking from major up to and including colonels) were seen entering the **komendatura** at about 9 a.m. on 17 March 1950. Most of the officers wore air force uniforms, others wore engineer, infantry, artillery and tank insignia. It was the impression that all commanding officers of the units stationed in and around Potsdam were attending a conference (5).

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2. a. **Quarters on Alexandrinenstrasse:**

**The 50 Soviet women (wearing civilian clothes and uniforms previously reported who were**  
employed at the headquarters or **komendatura** on  
Tappelsallee, were billeted in private houses on  
Alexandrinenstrasse.

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b. **Former NCO school on Jaegerallee:**

The 200 troops who had been quartered there were not observed on 10 March 1950. Gate guards were junior sergeants and privates first class wearing black-bordered red epaulets. Ten windows were illuminated that night (6).

c. **Miscellaneous observations:**

About 120 troops wearing black-bordered red epaulets, led by a captain, marched along Jaegerallee at 7:30 a.m. on 4 March 1950. They came from the town center and proceeded towards Nedlitz. The troops were 20 to 22 years of age and carried rifles, rucksacks, suitcases and packages. A column of about the same strength moved along the same route at about 1 p.m. The troops wore black-bordered red epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets. Four caterpillar tractors, each towing a gun of about 180 mm caliber, moved from the direction of Nedlitz toward Magdeburg at 7:30 a.m. on 6 March 1950.

d. It was learned on 18 March 1950 that the kitchen helpers and other workers employed in the Krampnitz Kavallerie Schule were given notice of dismissal for 31 March 1950. It was said that the barracks would be released to the Volks-polizei (7).

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3

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## 3. Delius Kaserne:

a. (1) Caterpillar tractors towing eighteen 172-mm guns, four trucks, two passenger cars and two field kitchens left the barracks at 7:30 on 9 March 1950. The four trucks were occupied by 20 men each, who were equipped with rifles and gas masks.

(2) A Nedlitz resident stated that, on the same day and at the same time, about 60 guns, coming from the direction of the Nordbruecke (northern bridge), moved along Amundsenstrasse and proceeded towards Bornim. The guns allegedly came from the Lohenlohe Kaserne and Ludendorff Kaserne.

(8) A sergeant stated that the artillery battalion was going to Jueterbog for record firing.

**(3) The 18 guns returned to the Delius Kaserne on 10 March 1950. They were very soiled. They were cleaned by pulling brushes through the barrels, as after firing (8)**

(4) It was observed on 9 March 1950 that some caterpillar tractors had a new coat of paint.

(5) Six 172-mm artillery pieces towed by caterpillar tractors, four trucks and one field kitchen left the barracks on 15 March 1950, heading along Amundsenstrasse toward Jueterbog (8).

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b. (1) Two T34 tanks were driven around a previously reported iron structure at Bornstedterfeld at about 2 p.m. on 9 March 1950. Four detonations were heard at that time. The demonstration, witnessed by a general and about 50 officers ranking from major up to and including colonels, ended at about 4:30 p.m. The officers later dined in the Delius Kaserne. The general was about 50 years of age. The other officers were artillery, infantry and engineer insignia. About 150 engineer troops from the engineer unit in the Delius Kaserne took part in the demonstration. The area was **sealed** off by guards for a distance of about 150 meters from the iron structure.

(2) It was observed on 16 March 1950 that the iron structure was a rapid-assembly bridge, about 40 meters long, 10 meters wide with four sections. The

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4

bridge proper was about 22 meters long, the ramps on each end about 8 meters long. The bridge was being disassembled. On each side of it were two round steel pillars, about 8 meters high and about 25 cm in diameter. They supported the bridge by steel cable bracings.

Two motorized cranes (resembling caterpillar tractors) were used in disassembling the bridge. The two tanks mentioned had allegedly gone over the bridge (9).

c. Miscellaneous information:

Kovalenkov, who has been supply officer of the artillery unit in the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam, for two years, left with his family for Lvov. His baggage was shipped to Rathenow where it was loaded on a train of 30 boxcars and 4 coaches. Several officers from Potsdam, with their families, were observed at the railroad station (10).

The four MIA trucks stationed in the Delius Kaserne were deadlined on 11 March 1950.

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In trying to dispatch some furniture to the Soviet Zone of Germany on 10 March 1950,

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civilian freight traffic has been suspended in the entire zone, effective 10 March 1950.

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in Potsdam, a division was allegedly activated, to be later transferred to the Elbe River area (11).

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5

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Comment:

(1) The signal unit was last observed in the barracks in November 1949 (14).

In late February 1950 an AF unit left the barracks and an artillery unit moved in (15).

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(2) [ ] is known to belong to a motor pool.

(3) Previously occupied by guard details only. Further information is required to establish whether a Volks-polizei unit (infantry Bereitschaft?) which left Kuestrin-Kietz with its billeting equipment between 16 and 18 March 1950, allegedly for Iotsdam-Wildpark, moved to the Wildpark area or, possibly, to the Lusaren Kaserne.

(4) A motor transport unit with passenger cars was observed at the barracks as late as mid-February 1950 (16). There are no indications that Volkspolizei are to move into the barracks.

(5) The barracks was previously assumed to house the General Staff Administration and Supply section of the GCEG and training courses for (administrative ?) officers. The Iotsdam central **Komendatura** is at 53 Strasse-der-Jugend (formerly Kurfuerstenstrasse).

(6) A ration supply depot was previously located there.

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(7) Most of the units quartered there left for an unidentified destination in late February 1950. [ ] (C). Only about 300 troops remained in the barracks (15). There are no indications that Volkspolizei are to move into the barracks.

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(8) Guns left the barracks on 2 and 3 March 1950. [ ] (C). They moved toward Magdeburg at that time. The report stating that the guns were moved to Jueterbog for record firing is given more credence [ ]

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(9) Presumably a rapid-assembly treadway steel bridge, (NRP?) consisting of a cantilever middle section and two ramps. The load capacity can apparently be increased by supporting steel bracings with backstay beams.

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(10) A Senior Lieutenant Kovalenko was identified in the Delius Kaserne in December 1948. He allegedly served with [ ] (? No. Gun Arty Regt of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig).

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6

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(11) There are no leads as to the activation of a division in Potsdam. The information is forwarded with reservation.

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(12)  was observed with a Potsdam unit which received 15 ambulances from Halle in December 1949.

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(13)  was observed with a Beelitz unit which received a shipment from Wittenberg in September 1949.

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